

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7350

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 07439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, CVIS, SP

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF CNT TRADE UNION FROM APPENDIX A, VOL. 9-VISAS

1. THIS MESSAGE RECOMMENDS THE REMOVAL OF THE CNT (CONFEDERACION NACIONAL DE TRABAJO - NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR) FROM THE VISA LIST OF SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS, CLASSIFICATION "3", APPENDIX A, EXHIBIT I, VOL. 9 -VISAS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL.

2. OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE, IT IS INCORRECT TO ASCRIBE ANY COMMUNIST AFFILIATION, CONTROL, ASSOCIATION, OR TENDENCIES TO THE CNT AS CONSTITUTED IN TODAY, SPAIN. AS THE EMBASSY HAS INDICATED IN AN EARLIER TELEGRAM (MADRID 7146), THE CNT REJECTS ANY POLITICAL ALLIANCES AND IS FIERCELY ANTI-COMMUNIST. THE CNT HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT IT OPPOSES THE CONTROL OF TRADE UNIONS BY POLITICAL PARTIES (E.G. THE CONTROL OF THE WORKERS' COMMISSIONS BY THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY), AND THAT WAS THE PRINCIPAL REASON THAT THE CNT ULTIMATELY REJECTED AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE COS (COORDINADORA DE ORGANIZACIONES SINDICALES - THE NATIONAL "UNITY OF ACTION" COORDINATING MECHANISM GROUPING THE SOCIALIST UGT, CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST USO, AND THE WORKERS' COMMISSIONS). IN SUPPORT OF THIS EXPRESSED CNT ANTI-COMMUNIST DOCTRINE, A WELL-INFORMED USO LABOR LEADER TOLD THE EMBASSY RECENTLY THAT THE CNT HAD TURNED ITS BACK ON THE COS BECAUSE
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IT WISHED TO PRESERVE ITS "COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE" AND WAS

ALSO "HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF THE COMMUNISTS". ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROUP IN BARCELONA (TRADITIONAL SEAT OF POWER OF THE CNT) HAS JOINED ANOTHER ALLIANCE, THE ALIANZA SINDICAL DE CATALUNA (LABOR ALLIANCE OF CATALONIA). AS ONE PROMINENT CNT LEADER TOLD THE LABOR ATTACHE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, A PRIME REASON WHY THE CNT HAD DECIDED TO JOIN THE ALIANZA WAS THAT THE GROUP WOULD SERVE AS "AN ANTI-COMMUNIST WEAPON" (READ AN ANTI-WORKERS' COMMISSIONS WEAPON). FINALLY, IN SUPPORT OF THE CNT'S ANTI-COMMUNIST STANCE, THE CIVIL GOVERNOR OF BARCELONA RECENTLY ASKED THE EMBASSY IF THERE WAS NOT SOME WAY THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OR U.S. TRADE UNIONS COULD HELP THE SOCIALIST UGT OR THE CNT AS A COUNTERPOISE TO THE DOMINANT COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS.

3. MADRID 7146 AND OUR A-166 OF SPET 10, 1976, GAVE SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CNT. WITH RESPECT TO ITS CURRENT DOCTRINE, THE CNT'S "ANARCHO-SYNDICAL" LABEL, WITH ITS CIVIL WAR ECHOS MAY BE MISLEADING IN THE CONTEXT OF MODERN WESTERN TRADE UNIONISM. TODAY'S CNT BELIEVES IN THE PEACEFUL PROCESS OF SOCIAL CHANGE, NOT RPT NOT IN VIOLENCE OR TERRORISM. THE TERMS "LIBERTARIAN SYNDICALISM" 94 "REVOLUTIONARY SYNDICALISM" MIGHT THEREFORE BE A MORE APPROPRIATE DESCRIPTION. THE CNT IS INTERESTED IN BREAD-AND-BUTTER ISSUES AS WELL AS IN THE EVENTUAL RESTRUCTURING OF SOCIETY. ALTHOUGH IT HAS A HIGH SOCIAL IDEOLOGY, IT IS NOT BY ANY MEANS DIVORCED FROM THE DAY-TO-DAY STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS AND BENEFITS. IN OTHER WORDS, TI OPPOSES BOTH CAPITALISM AS SUCH AND COMMUNISM. IT SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF "DIRECT ACTION", BY WHICH IT MEANS DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH MANAGEMENT - WITHOUT RECOURSE TO MEDIATORS. THE SAME CNT LEADER REFERRED TO ABOVE ADDED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THEY WNATED THE WORKER TO PICK UP A PISTOL AND SHOOT THE BOSS. FINALLY, SPANISH GOVT ACKNOWLEDGES THE CNT AS A LEGITIMATE TRADE UNION (TO BE LEGALIZED WITH OTHERS SHORTLY), AND HAS OFFERED TO INCLUDE IT IN GOVERNMENT/TRADE UNION NEGOTIATIONS ON LABOR REFOR.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE EMBASSY PROSPOSES TO SEND A CNT TRADE UNION LEADER TO THE DEPARTMENT/AFL-CIO-SPONSORED PROJECT FOR LABOR LEADERS WHICH COMMENCES OCT. 7 (STATE 188203), IT IS HOPED THAT THE REQUEST TO REMOVE THE CNT

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ENTIRELY FROM THE SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION LIST FOR SPAIN IN APPENDIX A, VOL. 9, WILL BE GIVEN URGENT AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.

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